

Vermont Maple 100

By Julia Scheier, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

The Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets is again partnering with Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing to coordinate the Vermont Maple 100 — a fall celebration of the diverse ways to use one of the state’s most treasured treats. The Maple 100 encourages Vermonters and visitors alike to uncover the myriad of ways to enjoy maple by visiting businesses who are offering maple menu items, tastings, tours, or activities.

First introduced in a limited way in 2020, this year’s event is a continuation of federal funding to promote Vermont maple locally and nation-

ally. From mid-September to mid-October 2021 you can access maple-inspired specialty products and participate in activities all across the state. These may include going on a sugarhouse tour, indulging in a new maple cree-mee spot, discovering maple cotton candy, enjoying a maple-inspired drink, or joining your friends for an educational sugarbush woods tour. You may even find a maple-infused



dog treat for your furry friend! Explore the list of offerings to see if your favorite general store or restaurant is participating – or you may discover a new cherished part of your community.

Bring your friends and family along to explore all the ways to enjoy this treasured Vermont staple. Visit the Maple 100 webpage to explore the offerings, grab a Bingo card, and plan your next adventure:

<https://www.vermontvacation.com/maple-100>
Contact Julia Scheier, Emerging Issues Specialist, to learn more: 802-522-7042, Julia.scheier@vermont.gov



AGRiVIEW

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

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Celebrating the Best of Vermont Agriculture at Country Fairs and Field Days

Last year we faced uncertainty under the cloud of Covid-19 and we were not able to hold large gatherings. Vermonters stepped up in the fight against the pandemic and through our collective efforts, the Green Mountains are now open.

Country fairs and field days are among Vermont's time-honored summer traditions, often taking us back to a life that somehow seems like it was less complicated. Communities unite around about a dozen agricultural fairs happening throughout Vermont, starting in July and running into early autumn.

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Celebrating agriculture, Vermont's fairs and field days bring together locals and visitors for animal, produce, and craft competitions, as well as rides, games, and of course, fair food.

We missed our country Fairs and Field Days in 2020. In addition to bringing visitors into communities, fairs and field days provide educational opportunities for Vermont's youth. Raising a calf requires months of preparation; showing the animal teaches life-long skills. Keeping a cow spotless is hard work. Training an animal to behave with spectators is not easy. A young farmer's joy in winning a blue ribbon is undeniable, and there is also the lesson of not winning.

That same life lesson can be found in the garden. Striving to earn a blue ribbon in the summer begins with sowing seeds in the spring. We learn about soil, fertilizer, weather, and pests, and bringing home that prize is the culmination of months of hard work. Like raising a calf, gardening is an intricate recipe that

delivers extensive rewards.

The Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, along with the support of Governor Scott and the Legislature, was able to provide important resources for our fairs and field days this summer. The state budget included \$500,000 in grant dollars for fair and field days organizers to help pay some of their big bills. We are grateful for the countless volunteers who support the fairs and field days so they may flourish and continue.

Along with Vermont's fair and field days, the "Big E" Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Massachusetts, is back too, also having taken the year off in 2020. This year the fair runs from

September 17 – October 3. The Vermont Building at the fair will be open, trumpeting all things "Vermont" on the Avenue of States. If you haven't had a chance to visit the Big E and the Vermont building, it's bucket-list worthy! Many of Vermont's finest farmers, producers, artists, and food companies are ambassadors of the Vermont story, showcasing their piece of Vermont during the 17-day fair.

As we say so long to summer and hello to fall, we are thankful for all those that got us to a better spot. I hope you can enjoy a fair or a field day along with so many of those public events we missed during 2020. Enjoy!

Anson Tebbetts,
Secretary, Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

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This Month's Recipe

Three Sisters Stew

Submitted by Brooke Decker, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Ingredients

2 cups zucchini - chopped
2 cups corn
1 medium onion chopped
3 cloves garlic chopped
1 Tablespoon vegetable oil

1 cup uncooked rice
4 cups vegetable broth
2 cups kidney or pinto beans

1/2 tsp dried basil
1/4 tsp oregano
1/4 tsp cumin powder
1/4 tsp crushed red pepper

Instructions

- Heat oil in medium saucepan with onion, garlic and rice until onion is cooked tender.
- Stir in remaining ingredients. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to medium low, cover 15-20 minutes until rice is tender/cooked and broth is thickened.
- Makes 4 - 1 1/2 cup servings



The Time to Plan for 2022 Farm Construction is Now

By Kaitlin Hayes, VT Agency of Ag

The construction season in Vermont is short but cherished. Vermonters take pride in the quality of their work and doing things the right way. “Measure twice, cut once” is a common phrase heard on construction sites. In that spirit, it is important to remember that coordinating with State Agencies and municipalities before breaking ground is in everyone’s best interest. State and federal regulations pertaining to construction activities carefully consider our environment, economy and communities. It is the landowner’s responsibility to comply with all applicable regulations, and while it may seem onerous, there are resources to help navigate the process.

As we all know, Covid-19 has had immense impacts on all walks of life, causing delays and unforeseen hurdles. The Agency strongly encourages all farmers to take this into account when planning for the future to account for delays and other potential effects.

Agency of Agriculture Employees can explain how the Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs) apply to various projects and provide guidance on which state permits the project may trigger. The Department of Environmental Conservation also have Permit Specialists listed on their website who can assist farmers as well. To find a Permit Specialist, please visit: <http://dec.vermont.gov/environmental-assistance/permits/specialists>

Keep in mind that the best time to plan is the year before construction. Aside from the Agency of Agriculture, the Agency of Natural Resources, the Agency of Transportation, the Vermont Land Trust, and Act 250 may play a role in the planning and permitting of

certain projects. Anytime water use is changing, wastewater may need to be considered. Proximity to wells, groundwater, rivers, streams, wetlands, floodplains, and floodways all need to be taken into consideration as well. Easements and right of ways for utilities, roadways, and railways have requirements that need to be met. Remember that farms are not exempt from construction storm water permits, and farmers may need to plan how to manage heavy use area storm water runoff.

In addition to communication between State Agencies, farmers may also have various requirements for general construction or construction of a farm structure project at the town level. Construction of a farm

structure, although regulated by the Agency of Agriculture, still requires notification of the town zoning administrator or town clerk of the proposed project, and that the farm structure meets local setbacks pursuant to Section 9 of the RAPs:

- Prior to construction, farmers must notify the zoning administrator or the town clerk of the municipality where they are planning to construct, in writing. The notification needs to include a sketch of the proposed structure, the setback distances from property lines, rights-of-ways, and identify any water sources located near the proposed location.
- Local and Agency of Agriculture established setbacks need to be

followed unless the Agency has received and approved a request for a variance.

Vermont farmers are celebrated for their ability to merge land stewardship with creating the opportunity for economic growth and being a crucial part of the development of Vermont communities. The Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets can offer support by providing guidance in navigating the regulatory landscape, so that farmers can continue doing what they do best.

To be in contact with the Agency of Agriculture about construction on farms, variance requests, and applicable permits please contact Kaitlin Hayes at (802) 622-4112.



VERMONT AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEM PLAN 2021 – 2030: Lightly Processed Vegetables

Lead Author: Emily Barbour,
Consultant

Contributing Authors: Annie Rowell, UVM Sodexo; Alissa Matthews, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets; Theresa Snow, Salvation Farms; Connor Gorham, Center for an Agricultural Economy

Editor's note: This brief is part of the Vermont Agriculture & Food System Plan 2021-2030 submitted to the legislature in January 2021. To read the full plan, please go to <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/document/vermont-agriculture-and-food-system-strategic-plan-2021-2030>

What's At Stake?

Vermont institutions, hunger relief organizations, restaurants, and food retailers are limited in the amount of fresh, whole Vermont produce they can purchase, due to increasing food service labor shortages

and the difficulty and cost of working with seasonal, perishable, and irregularly shaped produce. To limit the loss of this market share to out-of-state producers, Vermont processing facilities have begun to sell cut and frozen locally grown vegetables, but issues of capital, infrastructure, logistics, and communication have limited their expansion potential. Collaboration between producers, processors, and buyers, substantial infrastructure investments, and policies to support producer and processor expansion are needed to encourage in-state minimal processing and continue the growing momentum of local purchasing.

Current Conditions

Vermont institutions are interested in Vermont produce, but this demand is often misaligned with



the quantity, variety, and seasonality of fresh produce (see *College and Hospital Procurement* brief, *School Food Procurement* brief). There are a number of logistical barriers to address such as food service labor shortages (resulting in insufficient time and capacity to process vegetables on-site), difficulty in using irregular, perishable produce in a timely manner, inadequate communication between buyers and producers both pre- and post-harvest, and

discrepancies between the price producers need to receive for their products and buyers' budget limitations for purchasing unprocessed produce. Several of these barriers can be overcome with "light processing," defined here as drying, cutting, and/or freezing vegetables.

In the past several years, at least four Vermont businesses and nonprofits increased their investment in processing facilities but have struggled to expand to appropriate product volume and staff capacity levels and to create a year-round profitable business model. Food processing facilities face considerable workforce shortages, high start-up and scale-up costs, and challenges navigating food safety regulations, efficiency of scale, and distribution logistics, all limiting the growth of existing and potential for new processing ventures.

Developing a thriving local processing system requires investment in processing facilities, improved communication and commitment between producers, processors, and buyers, and thoughtful workforce recruitment and retention.

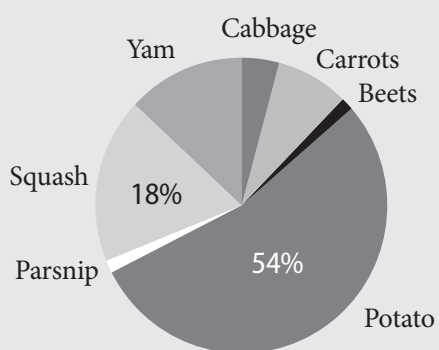
Bottlenecks & Gaps

- Processing ventures lack capital to invest in expensive, medium to large-scale processing equipment.
- Facility availability and distribution methods are lacking for producers and processors lightly processing vegetables.
- There is a gap between the cost of growing an processing local produce and the price institutional buyers are able to pay, especially as both face the costs associated with scaling up production volumes.
- Buyer needs and consumer demand do not always align with what is currently produced in the state and much of the state's institutional purchasing fluctuates with the academic calendar.
- Jobs in light processing are difficult to fill, as they are physically demanding, repetitive, and seasonal.

Opportunities

- Vermont-based buyers' strong interest in local, lightly processed vegetables can help support and expand local production.
- Increased availability of local, lightly processed vegetables could help alle-

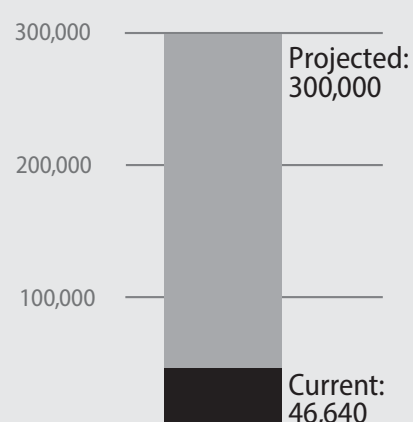
Current Institutional Purchases* of Lightly Processed Vegetables (all, not just local)



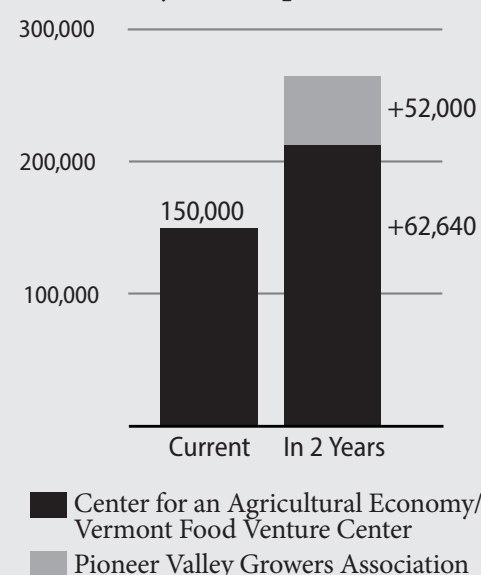
Total: 280,724 pounds

*including only Sodexo's Vermont accounts, UVM Medical Center, and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center

Current and Projected Institutional* Demand, Locally Produced (pounds)



Processing Capacity and Projections (pounds)



- viate food service industry labor shortage pressure.
- Light processing can help to decrease food loss and increase producer revenue by utilizing hard-to-sell but otherwise quality produce.
- Many businesses and workforce stakeholders are finding solutions for labor, equipment, and transportation shortages, with several promising models and the potential for further collaboration between local food businesses and

- organizations.
- Forward contracting between producers, processors, and buyers could provide greater stability and predictability in the market.

Recommendations

- Anchor buyers (e.g., Sodexo) and processors (e.g., Salvation Farms, Vermont Food Venture Center, Mad River Food Hub, and Western Massachusetts Food Processing Center) should

compile the challenges of the local processing business model and develop a product list that works for producers, processors, and buyers. Sodexo's Vermont First initiative has begun determining products with high institutional demand and low local production volumes that local producers could feasibly address. This initiative should be continued and shared among buyers, processors, and producers.

- Investors, institutional buyers, and grant-makers (e.g., Working Lands Enterprise Initiative) should fund processors' capital investment needs for expensive equipment to start or scale up processing ventures.
- Processors and buyers should work with producers to set up clear and consistent communication around volume, scheduling, and logistics, and offer forward contracting — a commitment between two parties guaranteeing

a buyer will purchase a certain amount of product — when possible.

- Researchers, related organizations, and businesses should investigate and advise Regional Development Corporations, the Vermont Department of Economic Development, and the Vermont Department of Labor about the extent of and type of labor needs, and opportunities for expanded processing in the state.

COVID-19 Business Coaching Available for Farm, Food and Forest Sector Businesses

By Liz Gleason, Vermont Housing & Conservation Board

The Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program, a program of the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board, is expanding services to help working lands businesses navigate urgent needs related to COVID-19. Funding to support this programming comes from the State of Vermont, allocated by the Vermont Legislature.

"Offering similar services at the height of the pandemic last year helped businesses connect with critical support resources and access a variety of relief programs," said the Viability Program's new Director, Liz Gleason. "We're excited to be able to offer additional direct services to working lands entrepreneurs to help them navigate a diverse range of pandemic impacts and advance along their path to recovery."

Beginning in July, the Viability Program will offer coaching to farm, food, and forest products businesses to meet urgent COVID-related needs, in addition to its regular longer-term advising services. Eligible business owners complete a streamlined application to be matched with a professional business advisor. Advisors are able to assist working lands businesses with applying for the recently launched Economic Recovery Bridge Grants through the Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development as well as navigating other state and federal relief programs. Support is also available for financial and cash flow planning, navigating market shifts, adapting operations, and other topics.

"Our producers have gone to great lengths to adapt their businesses in response to the pandemic and many are continuing to navigate challenges as well as oppor-

tunities. VHCB's Farm & Forest Viability Program has been integral in advancing Vermont's working lands economy for nearly two decades and these additional direct services will be a key resource for businesses as they move toward recovery," said Secretary of Agriculture, Anson Tebbetts.

Commissioner of Forests, Parks & Recreation, Michael Snyder, said, "The pandemic

has demonstrated how essential the working lands sector is to Vermonters and our economy. The Viability Program's efforts to connect forest products and agricultural businesses with coaching and support will help accelerate recovery and build a more resilient economy."

Applications for the Viability Program's COVID-related coaching services are currently being accepted.

More information and application available at: www.vhcb.org/support-services.

The Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program provides business planning, technical assistance, and ownership transfer planning to farm, food and forest products businesses. For more information about the Viability Program, please visit www.vhcb.org/viability.



COVID Recovery Grant Available

The impacts of COVID 19 have been felt by many businesses in Vermont to include our farms and agricultural enterprises. Through the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD), the Economic Recovery Bridge Program is available to assist Vermont businesses, including farms and agriculture related entities that can still demonstrate a net tax loss in 2020 due to COVID-19.

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFAM) strongly encourages all agricultural farms and businesses to explore this opportunity to assist in the recovery of their businesses from the negative impacts of the pandemic.

"We highly encourage all Vermont farms and agricultural businesses to apply for the Economic Bridge Program, no matter your size or need," Vermont Agriculture Secretary Anson Tebbetts said. "From small to large, this program could help offset the business losses incurred by our farmers due to the COVID 19 pandemic."

The Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program, a program of the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board, is expanding services to help working lands businesses navigate urgent needs related to COVID-19. Funding to support this programming comes from the State of Vermont, allocated by the Vermont Legislature. Advisors are able to assist working lands businesses with applying for the Economic Recovery Bridge Grants through the Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development.

Eligible business owners should complete a streamlined application to be matched with a professional business advisor for assistance.

The Economic Recovery Bridge Program began

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Upcoming Grant Opportunities

The Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets is pleased to be able to help you more easily identify upcoming grant opportunities. Please go to <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/calendar> for more information.

Programs Open Year-Round

Farmstead Best Management Practices (BMP) Program

Technical and financial assistance for engineered conservation practices on Vermont farms.

Jenn LaValley
Jenn.LaValley@vermont.gov
(802) 828-2431

Pasture And Surface Water Fencing (PSWF) Program

Technical and financial assistance for pasture management and livestock exclusion from surface water on Vermont farms.

Kaitlin Hayes
Kaitlin.Hayes@vermont.gov
(802) 622-4112

Grassed Waterway and Filter Strip (GWFS) Program

Technical and financial assistance for implementing buffers and seeding down critical areas on VT farms.

Sonia Howlett
Sonia.Howlett@vermont.gov
(802) 522-4655

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Implementation costs of vegetated buffers and rental payments for maintained buffers on Vermont agricultural land.

Ben Gabos
Ben.Gabos@Vermont.gov
(802) 461-3814

Phil Wilson
Phillip.Wilson@vermont.gov
(802) 505-5378

Fall 2021 (Biennial)

Agricultural Clean Water Initiative Program

Grants for water quality initiatives by supporting farmers with education and outreach, technical assistance, identifying and implementing best management practices, planning, and more.

Nina Gage
Nina.Gage@vermont.gov
(802) 622-4098

Produce Safety Improvement Grants

Grants to help produce growers implement on-farm food safety practices.

Gina Clithero
Gina.Clithero@vermont.gov
(802) 585-6225

September

Capital Equipment Assistance Program (CEAP)

Purchase of innovative farm equipment that aids in the reduction of runoff.

Nina Gage
Nina.Gage@vermont.gov
(802) 622-4098

September/October

Working Lands Enterprise Fund Service Provider Grants & Contracts

For service providers that support agriculture and forestry businesses.

Lynn Ellen Schimoler
Working.Lands@vermont.gov
(802) 585-9072

September/October

Organic Certification Cost Share Program

Partial reimbursement of direct costs for organic certification.

Terry Smith
Terry.Smith@vermont.gov
(802) 828-5667

Working Lands Enterprise Fund Business Grants

Grants to support agriculture and forestry projects.

Lynn Ellen Schimoler
Working.Lands@vermont.gov
(802) 585-9072

October

Farm to School Child Nutrition Implementation Grants

Grants for the development of farm to school programs.

Trevor Lowell
Trevor.Lowell@vermont.gov
(802) 585-9186

Dairy Food Safety & Certification Grant

Grant funding to support food safety improvements including technical assistance, audits, plan writing, and infrastructure upgrades.

Kathryn Donovan
Kathryn.Donovan@vermont.gov
(802) 585-4571

November

Agricultural Fair & Field Days Capital Grants And Operational Stipends

Grants for 20-year capital improvements and operational stipends for fairs and field days.

Alissa Matthews
Alissa.Matthews@vermont.gov
(802) 505-1661

January

Community Supported Agriculture Grant

Reimbursement for 80% of the cost of community supported agriculture shares for early childcare providers.

Trevor Lowell
Trevor.Lowell@vermont.gov
(802) 585-9186



NE-DBIC to Receive \$6.13 Million in Additional Funds

By Kathryn Donovan,
VT Agency of Agriculture,
Food & Markets

The USDA announced additional funds for 2021-2024

Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives (DBII) for both existing and new initiatives. These renewed funds will allow the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) to continue to support the dairy industry of the Northeast region through innovative projects and grants funds that will go directly to

businesses.

\$18.4 million is available for the three existing initiatives which includes the NE-DBIC, along with existing dairy innovation initiatives in both Wisconsin and Tennessee. Each existing center will be eligible for non-competitive funds of approximately \$6.13 million dollars each.

Additionally, \$1.8 million in funds is available nationally for organizations to host new Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives to diversify dairy product

markets, promote business development, and encourage the use of regional milk production.

Dairy Food Safety Grant to be Released

In October, the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) will release a Dairy Food Safety & Certification Grant to support food safety improvements for including technical assistance, audits, plan writing, and infrastructure upgrades. Processors from across the Northeast region will be eligible for grant funding to support projects that will increase their production safety standards and increased audit requirements to sell into certain markets. This application will be open to dairy producers, processors, and producer associations. Grants will range from \$10,000 - \$40,000

with a 25% (cash or in-kind) match commitment required. Total funds available: \$250,000.

To learn more, visit: agriculture.vermont.gov/dbic/activities

Goat & Sheep Dairy Market Research & Interactive Dashboard Available

In 2020, the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) selected Atlantic Corporation out of Waterville, Maine to conduct market research on goat and sheep dairy milk and processed products (milk, yogurt, and cheese). The purpose of this research was to understand current gaps in the Northeast regional supply of goat and sheep milk products, including looking forward to upcoming trends to provide a foundation for the expansion of goat and sheep milk products from

New England to regional and national markets.

In their report (and a short summary report), Atlantic provides key findings of their research highlighting valuable information for goat and sheep dairy processors in the areas of consumption trends, consumer preferences, willingness to pay, packaging preferences/marketing, and perceived availability.

Atlantic also developed an interactive dashboard, which according to Atlantic, "can enable sheep and goat dairy producers to improve marketing strategies, tailor production to products highest in demand, and identify target markets for their products."

To view a recording of the presentation of findings and overview of the dashboard and to access the summary report and dashboard, visit: bit.ly/3weS2WS

For Agricultural Events and Resources Visit:

- The VT Agency of Agriculture Events Calendar: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/calendar>
- UVM Extension Events Calendars: https://www.uvm.edu/extension/extension_event_calendars
- Vermont Farm to Plate Events Calendar: <https://www.vtfarmtoplate.com/events>
- Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont Events Calendar: <http://nofavt.org/events>
- DigIn Vermont Events Calendar: <https://www.diginvt.com/events/>
- Agricultural Water Quality Regulations: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality/regulations>
- Agency of Ag's Tile Drain Report now available here: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/tile-drainage>
- VAAFM annual report available here: http://agriculture.vermont.gov/about_us/budgets_reports
- Farm First: Confidential help with personal or work-related issues. More info call: 1-877-493-6216 any-time day or night, or visit: www.farmfirst.org
- Vermont AgrAbility: Free service promoting success in agriculture for people with disabilities and their families. More info call 1-800-639-1522, email: info@vcil.org or visit: www.vcil.org.

For more agricultural events visit our Funding Opportunities & Resources for Businesses webpage at: http://agriculture.vermont.gov/producer_partner_resources/funding_opportunities



Produce Safety Bite: Pre-Harvest Practices

On-farm food safety tips for fruit & vegetable growers

By Ollie Cultrara, VT
Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Produce safety means protecting fruits and vegetables from becoming contaminated with harmful pathogens. Many fruits and veggies are eaten raw, so we can't rely on cooking to kill potential germs. These key steps help maintain your product's integrity on its way to your customers.

Pre-harvest assessment

Never harvest produce that is visibly contaminated with animal feces (poop). Before and during harvesting, look for signs like animal droppings, crop damage, or extensive animal tracks. Consider integrating this visual assessment into existing

routines, such as scouting for pests or checking crop maturity. Communicate about any areas that should not be harvested. One simple method is flagging to indicate a no-harvest zone.

Wash your hands

Everyone must wash their hands before handling produce. The UVM Extension Produce Safety Team (producesafety@uvm.edu) can help you set up a convenient portable or permanent handwashing station that includes clean water, soap, and paper towels.

Empower your crew

Train workers to spot things that could contaminate produce, like feces or dirty harvest containers, and explain how to address issues that arise.



Set expectations for cleaning harvest equipment, scouting for damage and feces, and not harvesting produce that could be contaminated. Reward or acknowledge positive practices like

handwashing to reinforce good habits.

Next steps

The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule (PSR) sets a standard for preventing contamination before and during harvesting. Whether or not your farm is subject to the PSR

requirements, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture's Produce Program can help you take the next step in developing a culture of food safety on your farm. Contact the Vermont Produce Program at AGR.FSMA@vermont.gov, (802) 461-5128. For more information, visit agriculture.vermont.gov/produceprogram



Subscribe to Field Notes!

A quarterly newsletter from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets' Food Safety and Consumer Protection Division

If you eat food or purchase commodities at retail in Vermont, you will benefit from quarterly updates from the Agency's Food Safety and Consumer Protection Division, comprising the Dairy, Animal Health, Meat Inspection, Weights and Measures, and Agricultural Products Sections. Get a glimpse into how this specialized team ensures safe food and fair markets for all Vermonters! To subscribe, visit here: <https://vermont.us7.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=7858fdf10d2a4e7ed78a12245&id=6612b3a6ff>

Anatomy of a Milk Tanker Inspection

By E.B. Flory, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Have you ever passed a milk tanker truck and wondered how do they get cleaned? What makes a milk tanker truck able to pick up and off load milk? The Dairy Section can assure you that these trucks aren't just large cylinders on wheels! They feature state of the art equipment that allows trucks to pump milk from multiple farms, keep the milk cold during transport, possess connection ports to off load milk efficiently, and can be cleaned for the most part by an automated washing system.

Dairy Section staff inspect milk tanker trucks to safeguard our farmers and consumers from cleanliness issues, equipment failure, human cleaning error, and security sealing of each truck. Inspections occur on cleaned tanker trucks before the trucks go back out to pick up milk. Inspections involve visually assessing the cleanliness of the outside, the inside, and individual parts that make up the tanker. From the ground inspectors observe the cleanliness of the outside of the tanker and go through the rear compartment of the tanker. The rear compartment features a seal placed on the truck where the last cleaning was performed on the truck. This seal is to protect any milk tanker truck from tampering that could endanger milk going on the truck. Inspectors will break this seal, document the seal number on their inspection



A milk tanker truck's rear compartment with a meter and sampling system.

form and wash tag. At the end of inspection, they will add a new seal to the truck that is also recorded on the inspection form and wash tag.

Once the rear compartment is open inspectors are looking to verify the wash tag left on the truck was filled out correctly by

whomever cleaned the truck. These tags are utilized as verification for cleaning and also serve as a communication resource for inspectors. If a cleanliness issue is found, inspectors can communicate back to the facility where cleaning took place at to correct issues for the future. After this, inspectors will verify

that all hoses, valves, piping, and loading pump are clean. Several of these components need to be disassembled and hand cleaned and reassembled as part of the required sanitation cleaning.

When inspection of the outside of the tanker is complete inspectors then turn their efforts to inspecting the inside of the tanker which involves either utilizing manholes located on the bottom sides of the tanker or having to climb on top of the tanker to access manhole covers. Each manhole cover will have seals on them that inspectors must break for inspection, these seal numbers and their replacements are recorded on the inspection form and wash tag. Inspectors are looking to see that rubber gaskets are in good repair, vent holes are clean, the manhole cover is clean, and the inside of the tanker is clean and does not have any residues on the inside of the tanker walls.

When an inspection is completed, a written inspection is left with the tanker along with all the original seals that had to be broken for inspection. The tanker is issued a state inspection sticker that is checked at milk processing facilities to confirm the tanker delivering milk is inspected and in sanitation compliance. If a tanker fails an inspection, it is not allowed to be utilized until the cleanliness issues are resolved, and the tanker is reinspected before it is back on the road collecting milk.

The Dairy Section staff goes to great lengths and tall heights daily to protect all producers, processors, and consumers of Vermont milk. A milk tanker truck inspection is just one of numerous inspections the Dairy Section performs to make sure all aspects of Vermont's dairy industry are meeting sanitation and food safety requirements.



Dairy Farm Supervisor Eric Perkins climbs high to inspect a dairy tanker truck.



Dairy team employees (left to right) Jay Jeror, Sue James and Greg Lockwood inspect an automated milk collection system.

VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY NEWS



Compiled by Vern Grubinger,
University of Vermont
Extension
(802) 257-7967 ext. 303, or
vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu
www.vvbga.org

Reports From The Field

(Guildhall) Potato crop looks nice; all varieties have filled in their rows (except Red Norland which never does). Leafhopper pressure has been minimal, Colorado potato beetle has been bad, but only because of an ill-timed first spray. Our relationship with our contracted pesticide applicator has been strained this year. Timeliness matters when controlling CPB, and we will certainly be doing our own spraying next year.

Weed control in the potatoes is good, but we skipped a week of cultivation waiting on an insect spray. Knowing it could have been perfect weed control is frustrating. Pumpkins and squash are stalled with the wet weather.

Hopefully they'll come back, but we sell most of our pumpkins the first week of September, so we'll see. Construction on the potato barn addition continues and should be complete by 9/1. We started digging red skin new potatoes July 19, the earliest we've harvested since coming Vermont, but still got many that were baseball-sized.

(Westminster) July really slammed us with close to 20 inches of rain, finishing with 5 inches on July 29-30 alone. That's obviously bad news for lettuce, causing lots of bottom rot, compounded by lack of sunlight that prevents the lettuce, especially the romaine, from building a "frame" and ending up with a thin plant. We'll see what the wet weather will mean for other crops as the summer goes on.

Our winter squash has started to show a little powdery mildew but, more worryingly, the bees may have been discouraged from pollination because of the bad weather. We've been harvesting beets and carrots but have done very little with bunched beets this year because leaf disease has meant poor tops. On the plus side, it's saved us labor in a season when we're very short of good help. The kale is going strong, although it's tough for the workers out there slogging through

six inches of water to pick it. Otherwise, the sweet corn, off to a slow start, has been picked up, and we're having a bumper blueberry season.

(Burlington) Diseases are moving in everywhere with the recent wet period. Downy mildew and Stemphylium in onions, even the resistant cultivars, Pseudomonas in arugula, powdery mildew in tunnels cucumbers, Anthracnose in watermelon, basil downy mildew in resistant cultivars, to name a few. Coupled with early and abundant potato leafhopper, CPB, onion thrips, flea beetles, and others, it has been a more intensive spraying year than usual.

CPBs are getting notably harder to control, suspecting gradual resistance to Spinosad developing. Released *Pediobius* to control bean beetles for the first time, but I think it was too late. I'll shoot for earliest larval appearance next year.

Doom and gloom aside, harvests have been plentiful and good quality, with some of our best quality summer carrots and beets in several years, though Romance carrot, our sub for Yaya, isn't impressing with it tougher texture. Early and abundant crop of Walla Walla onions, which sized up much larger much earlier than our planned early onion, Bridger. Still really liking Norstar for our first early hard yellow onion, with good size, solid DM resistance, and excellent dry down. Appreciating more and more getting onions in and out early to beat the DM pressure, but also to field cure during the longer days of late July and early August.

CSA members are super happy, enjoying all the fun

of coming to the farm, PYO, and hanging out in the flowers. It is great to have the twice weekly enthusiasm of hundreds. I hope this can all continue, as the covid tea leaves are not looking good right now.

(Westminster West) For July we hit a record 20" rain! And the year started out looking like a repeat of last year's drought down here; things change! The rain has been a mixed blessing, I have not been able to get cover crops on the garlic field or any other field that was waiting for it. The onion crop is amazing, huge, and productive. Hardly any thrips and surprisingly, no disease that I can see. Tops are still green and healthy although some varieties are ready, so tops are down.

Potatoes look great, a little weedy because who can cultivate in the rain! Same on winter squash, some weeds but look like a terrific fruit set, pumpkins as well, getting big early! Hemp links good and a great melon crop so far. Garlic looks great with a very robust yield and top quality, no diseases at all. Already pulling and selling leeks!

Tunnel crops have been great, even with rivers running down the tomato beds, stunning yields! Proof that I have been under watering my crop for years. Celery crop is super and a nice addition to our mix. Sales at the farmers' market are still breaking records and wholesale is steady and robust.

Update From UVM Extension Ag Engineering

Cleaning Tools and Supplies for Produce Farms. Farms of all sizes all have tools and equipment that need to be cleaned and sanitized. That equipment varies in how well it has been designed to be cleaned, its level of hygienic design. Some items require lots of effort and specific tools to clean adequately, while others are straight-forward. What's the best brush to clean totes? Is spending money on an expensive squeegee to get water off the floor worth it? This blog post and video highlight some things to look for in cleaning tools and supplies for use on the farm: <https://go.uvm.edu/cleaningtools>

Weekly Vegetable Pest Scouting Reports From UVM

Funded in part by the VVBGA, this project provides useful information to growers about what's showing up on a variety of vegetable crops. Over the course of the growing season, major insect pests and diseases found at UVM's Horticultural Research and Education Center in S. Burlington are reported out by the Vermont Entomology and Participatory Action Research Team <https://www.uvm.edu/agroecology/research/vepart/>. All current and past reports can be found at: go.uvm.edu/pests



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Email: Agr.agriview@vermont.gov, phone: 802-828-1619. Deadline for submissions is the 1st of each month for next month's issue. Example: January 1st deadline for February issue.

Cattle

2 Registered Guernsey cows: Certified A2A2, milking 75- 80lbs, both sired by Welcome JT – \$1200 each. 1 registered Guernsey bred heifer due late August A2A2 certified, sired by Latimer; dam is EX90 \$1500. 802-222-4047. (6)

22 Jersey cows 2 bred heifers. 4 fresh Jan, 2 Feb, 3 due Mar, 4 Apr, 1 May, 2 Jun. Can be reg. Feed grain hay pasture. 802-775-3846 (6)

3 breeding age bulls- one Hereford, 2 angus for breeding or beef. Asking \$850 each or will consider trading for Hereford heifers. 802-586-2857 (6)

Retirement sale: 26 crossbred organic cows, 4 are registered Jersey, rest are Jersey, Shorthorn, Ayrshire and Holstein mix. AI bred to Jersey or Swedish Red to calve in spring and summer. On November 10 still producing 45 lbs. on pasture and 10 lbs grain with 4.4% BF 3.3%P. BTSCC 150. \$45,000 for this very gentle group. Also available 8 well-grown crossbred heifers due in March \$10,000 (802)623-6584 (6)

High quality Organic Registered Holstein, Springing and bred heifers available. Call Spring Brook Farm 802 673-9061 or 673-3810 (6)

Cow-calf pairs, bred cows, open heifers. Mixed breeds, certified organic, on pasture. Fair prices. 802-254-6982. (6)

Angus Bulls for sale. Greensboro, VT (802) 533-9804 (6)

Registered Ayrshire Cattle for sale, for more info contact Rachel @rachelbefore@gmail.com or call 802-673-7649 (6)

Four Registered Jersey heifers: Well grown, bred to grade Jersey bull. Due to calve Oct, 11,17,20 and Nov 2. Heifers will be 26, 25, and 2 at 24 mos of age when calving. \$1,150.00 each. Bradford, VT 802-222-5123 (7)

30 – 40 Jersey Cows. High components, low cell count, grass milk certified, OAD. Contact Joe and Emily in Charlotte, VT. (802) 425-4528 or doneganfamilyfarm@gmail.com (7)

Now boarding heifers and beef cattle! If labor's hard to find or you're short on feed, let us board your animals. 300 lbs and up with minimum group size of 50. Fed haylage or mix of haylage and corn silage...your choice. Excellent facilities in a freestall barn with slatted floors, comfort stalls and fans. Rate is \$1.50-2.00 per day per head. References available upon request. Call 802-533-2984. (7)

Equipment

John Deere 440B log skidder for sale. \$10,000 Call Henry 802-276-3096 (6)

JD 350 Dozer. New treads, many new undercarriage parts. Winch. Runs well. \$15,000. Thistle Hill Farm info@ThistleHillFarm.com or 802-457-9349 (6)

3 point hitch fertilizer spreader 500# works well 350.00. 802-384-3553 and wallysdomesticzoo@gmail.com (6)

25,000 Winco PTO Generator on wheels. New Holland 518, 519 Manure spreader. 254 white Harrows 10 ft good shape. 3 Furrow plows – Sweden. 2 Furrow plows. 11-ton Brock Grain bin. 30 ft Hay elevator – red. 802-624-0143/802-895-4683 (6)

IH 843 Combine Cornhead; IH 7ft windrow head for 881 Gehl 350 spreader; 5 ton and 25-ton grain bins; Case 580 backhoe for parts; Case 850 drive sprockets; 85,000 BTU wood coal furnace. Call 802-770-0959 (6)

New Holland 7320 two years old \$18,000.00 call Dave at 1-802-779-5543. Kuhn real Augie 142 helix. \$25,000.00 call Dave 1-802-779-5543. Any questions call Janet Messier 802-522-3402. (6)

Pequea Woodsman portable wood saw PTO driven hydraulic pump on 3 point hitch with 30 inch saw blade. \$1,500. OBO. PTO driven Four foot hydraulic wood splitter on three point hitch. \$2,000. Will negotiate 802-893-2263 (7)

Doda separator for sale: with new screens, excellent shape, used very little, \$20,000 OBRO. Bulk milk tanks for sale: 4000 gallon Boumatic Dari Kool, excellent condition, \$24,000 OBRO; 1500 gallon DEC, also excellent condition \$8000 OBRO. Double 10 Boumatic parlor for sale: reel, front exit with ATO and meters; auto ID and sort gate; excellent shape-\$30,000 OBRO. 4 Delaval VMS robots- with ID, computer, 2 air compressors, vacuum pump, 4 sort gates; will need new rubber parts; \$100,000 for all 4 or \$30,000 each. Call 802-533-2984 (7)



2 Forage wagons-Badger and Gehl 980 each with very good roof. 2 Gehl Hi-Throw Blowers, 1 John Deere 7000 four row corn planter for seeding only. 1 cultivator 4 row. 1 Gehl 860 two row corn chopper with two heads-new gathering chains for 1 head, still in box. 2 silo unloaders 16' Hanson Surface drive, Volumatic III ring drive. All equipment was serviced and ready to use last fall. Farm has moved away from corn due to weather issues. Please call Joe 1-802 595-5267 (7)

Ford L 8000 tandem dump truck 19ft rack. Hyd dump pump with tail gate, electric automatic tarp good tires and body. New batteries 213,000 miles \$17,500. 802-265-4589 (7)

Equine

Icelandic Walking horse cross. He is 14 hh, 2 years old, gelded, and UTD on shots, trims, worming and coggins, and is an easy keeper. He is a beautiful yellow dun with striping. He will be sturdy and medium-sized. He can trot and is also gaited. He needs knowledgeable home and trainer. He is not spooky and very friendly and polite. \$900 B.O. 802-384-3553 and wallysdomesticzoo@gmail.com (6)

Farm & Farmland

For Lease: 10 acres of organic meadow in Brandon, currently in alfalfa. Producing roughly 12-15 tons per year in dry hay. Three-year lease available, price negotiable, but approximately \$600/yr 802-247-8459 (6)

Opportunity for barn lease in Williston summer 2020: Well-maintained farm residence with equine barn, stalls, and pasture for up to four animals. Call Robin at 802-434-2788 for details (6)

General

Shelburne/ 5-gallon pails with handles. \$.75 each. Negotiable for volume purchase. 802-999-4644. (6)

Boumatic pipeline - \$2500 +/-230ft / 2inch / 46 stalls stainless steel milk line including vacuum line, wash sink, 3 units, control box, and receiver jar is \$2500. \$4000 with vacuum pump. Call (802) 446-2791 Wallingford. Ask for Jerry. (6)

Red Raspberry plants high producing – produce twice a year. Bare root \$2.00. Potted \$8.00. 802-323-8787 (7)

Hay, Feed & Forage

1000 tons corn silage, processed in Colchester. 50 @ ton 802-272-3478 or 802-223-1370 or email sethgardner@hotmail.com

Excellent quality first cut wrapped round bales; baleage. Shelburne VT Call Andy 802-598-6060. Analysis available upon request.

Organic haylage 12% protein \$45 per ton, 15% protein \$55 per ton. 802-537-2435

4x4 round balage mixed grains cut late June. \$30 802-325-3707

1st cut 4x5 round bales. Don Pettis, 802-265-4566.

Certified Organic First Cut Wrapped Round Bales for sale. Clover, Timothy and mixed grasses. Test samples and delivery available. Call Matt 802-558-3879.

Vetch & rye seeds for sale, mixed in 50 lb. bags, \$1/lb. certified by Vermont Organic Farmers. Thornhill Farm, 198 Taylor Road, Greensboro Bend, VT 05842, todd@thornhillfarmvermont.com, 802-441-3176

2021 first cut \$ 4.00 At barn in Ryegate. Steve, 802-584-4450.

Hay for sale: 1st cut organic round bales. Randolph Center. Call John at 522-8798.

ADDISON COUNTY

1st cut 4x5 round bales never wet. Good horse & cow hay. 802-948-2627 or 802-558-0166.

CLASSIFIEDS



Certified organic, small square bales always stacked and stored under cover, 35-40lbs/bale. \$4/bale, discounts available for large quantities. 802-989-0781 for inquiries.

Hay for Sale in Addison, VT. Large square bales and small squares. \$50-60 for Large, \$3.50-4.50 for Small. Delivery Available. Call Jack 802-989-8968

Hay for sale. \$3.25 bale. 802-377-5455

1st cut 5ft diameter round bales. \$30-\$35/Orwell 802-948-2211

Straw for sale - \$7/bale for 50 or more. \$8/bale for less than 50, \$6/bale for all in the barn, approx. 350. from our winter rye harvest in August. certified organic. Thornhill Farm, Greensboro Bend, 05842, todd@thornhillfarmvermont.com, 802-441-3176

Hay for sale, Cows have been sold. 750 lb 4x5 round bales stored inside or tube wrapped. Bedding/Mulch \$35 Heifer/Beef \$40 Dairy \$55 I will load your truck. In Whiting Call 802-623-6584

BENNINGTON COUNTY
Corn Silage 1000 ton plus.
Haylage 500 ton plus. Round bales 4x4. Square bales small. 802-394-2976

CALEDONIA COUNTY
Square baled hay- Top quality,

VOF certified organic, generous sized. 1st cut \$4.50/bale, 2nd cut \$5.50/bale at the barn in Barnet. 802-592-3088

CHITTENDEN COUNTY

Round bales for horses. Clean first cut timothy mixed grass, quality net wrapped 4' X 5' bales. Never wet. \$45. each. 802- 879-0391 Westford.

15 large 5x5 round bales mixed grass w/some timothy + clover 800+lbs \$50 ea. call 899-4126

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Good Quality Hay 1c & 2c from western US & Canada. Alfalfa orchard & orchard sweet grass 18 to 20% plus protein large bales & organic by trailer loads. Large or small square bales of straw



whole or processed at farm we load on direct delivery by trailer load. Mountain View Dairy Farm 802-849-6266 (6)

LAMOILLE COUNTY

Organic baled straw. \$5.50/bale. Certified organic. Valley Dream Farm, Cambridge, Vt. 802-644-6598 or valleydream@myfairpoint.net.

ORLEANS COUNTY

Pure alfalfa for sale and also 1st, 2nd and 3rd cut big/small squares, round bales, wrapped or unwrapped, straw and switch grass. Call Richard at 802-323-3275.

Organic Certified Silage for Sale: We will deliver from our farm or you can come and pick up. Call for prices and delivery charge. 1-802-744-2444 or 802-274-4934 or 802-744-6553.

RUTLAND COUNTY

Good quality 1st and 2nd round bales available, wrapped and dried. Please call 802-446-2435.

WINDHAM COUNTY

1st cut hay. Good horse hay. \$4.50 bale 802-254-5069

WINDSOR COUNTY

Hay for sale-400 square bales, Reading, Windsor County Vt. \$3.50 per bale at the barn. Call 802-484-7240

4x5 dry round bales \$45.00 delivery available. 802-457-1376

Rolling Meadows Farm: square bales in the field or barn \$4.00. Delivery can be arranged at \$5.50. Very nice hay from fertilized fields in the South Woodstock and Reading area. Call 802-484-5540 or goodfarmvt@gmail.com. Ask for David.

1st. cut dry round bales for sale. Never been rained on, stored under cover. \$50. @ 1st. cut haylage bales for sale. \$45. Rte. 5 Weathersfield Bow 802 -546-4340.

Dry Round Horse Hay, \$50/ Bale. 200 Bales left. Call 802-356-5030.

Vermont Fairs & Field Days

Please visit vtfairs.com to get the most up-to-date information as to the status of our favorite Vermont fairs and field days!

Sheep

Pure bred (w/papers) Romney Ram 3 years old, 1 pure bred (w/papers) Shetland ram for sale. Four icelandic/romney ewes for sale various ages/ colors (certified organic) 422-4704 leave message. (6)

Buying lambs- 40 lb and up & 1.75/ lb live weight. Call 802-674-2417. Pick up available (6)

Wanted

Dairy Grazing Apprentice, currently on the Corse Farm, graduating in September 2021 looking for placement on a farm that has at least a potential organic market in the future. Ideally 50 to 80 cows with adequate grazing land and a farmer, without a successor, interested in a gradual transition to a new farmer. MacKenzie Wallace mackenzierwallace2@gmail.com or home number 802-

368-2230 or cell number 603-289-4790 between 12:30 -1:30 PM or 6:30 - 8 PM (6)

F350 or 450 flatbed dump. Dutch belt heifer calf and black white face bull calf. 603-336-0017 (6)

Looking for several 4-spoked, 4 ft. diameter pin wheels for an old Farmhand rake. The 90-degree rod hole holding the pin wheel on is 21/4 inches in diameter. Call 802-457-2218 (6)

4-6 Galvanized stock tanks. 10 barrel or so in size. Don't need to hold water just needs to hold dirt. Little bit of rust is ok but not a lot. Willing to pay some based on condition. Call Troy at 802-356-9082. (6)

Pair of headlocks for cows, round bale feeder, and forks for 7109 loader pin bucket. Also coral panels, three p/h rake and 5 or 6' disc mower. Hinsdale 603-336-0017. Cattle: two Jerseys-crosses heifers breeding age \$1,000 or b/o, three Hereford heifers \$500 & up and beef cow \$1250 or b/o. Hinsdale 603-336-0017. (7)

Agency Contact Numbers

To help you find the right number for your question, please consult the list below. You are always welcome to call our main line 802-828-2430. We will do our best to route you to person most able to answer your question quickly and accurately.

Program Phone Numbers

Act 250	828-2431
Animal Health	828-2421
Business Development.....	828-1619
Dairy	828-2433
Enforcement: Water Quality or Pesticide. . .	828-2431
Feed, Seed, Fertilizer & Lime.....	828-5050
Licensing & Registration	828-2436
Meat Inspection	828-2426
Produce Program	461-5128
Vermont Agriculture & Environmental Lab ..	585-6073
Water Quality BMP.....	828-3474
Water Quality Grants	622-4098
Water Quality Reports.....	272-0323
Weights & Measures	828-2433
Working Lands.....	622-4477

Tips for Harvesting Pumpkins and Winter Squash

By Bonnie Kim
Donahue, UVM
Extension

Fall brings many great things that come in beautiful shades of orange, yellow, red and brown. Pumpkins and winter squash are among the most wonderful of these.

Fall's fluctuating temperatures and the threat of frost bring challenges to growing these in your garden. Here are some ideas to keep in mind for a great crop this year.

Pumpkins and winter squash generally are ready to pick when they have fully changed color, and the skin is tough. A common test is to scratch the skin with your fingernail. If the skin is soft and breaks, it is not ready to pick. If it is hard, the fruit could be harvested.

Vine health also is an indicator of when the fruit should be harvested. If the vines are healthy, green and disease-free, you could let your fruits ripen in the garden longer. If the vines are turning crispy, yellowing or dying, consider harvesting.

Both leaves and fruits

are sensitive to frost, which complicates the approach of waiting until the fruit is ripe to harvest. A hard frost can damage the skin of fruits as well as kill the plant leaves and vines.

If a hard frost is forecasted, it is probably a good idea to harvest your pumpkins and squash. Luckily, if you have to pick these before they have fully changed color, they will continue to ripen off the vine. How much green is left may shorten their storage lifespan, but a shorter storage life is better than a squishy rind from frost damage.

If your patch is small, another option when frost is predicted is to cover the area completely with

blankets, bed linens or drop cloths, using small stakes to prevent the material from touching the foliage. Weight down the outer edges of the covering to prevent cold air from getting in, and be sure to remove the next morning when temperatures rise.

When harvesting, cut the stem cleanly using a knife or clippers, about 3-4 inches from the fruit. Avoid picking

up the fruit up by its stem. A broken stem will mean that the fruit will not last as long in storage.

After picking your pumpkins and winter squash, place them in a warm, dry and ventilated place, such as a covered or sun porch, garage or shed, to cure for 1-2 weeks at about 80-85 degrees Fahrenheit.

Curing helps the fruit heal over any cuts or scratches, and seals the stem. Without curing, these openings in the skin or stem can shorten the storage life of the fruits, making them rot faster.

If temperatures remain warm, you can cure pumpkins and squash outdoors for a few weeks before storing, but keep in mind that squirrels

and chipmunks may feast on your harvest. Orange varieties can be cured in the sun, while white varieties should be cured out of direct sunlight. After curing, store your pumpkins and winter squash in a cool, dry, well-ventilated place with temperatures of about 50-60 degrees Fahrenheit.

Different varieties may have different harvesting and curing requirements, expected length of storage and best time timing for eating. Therefore, it's a good idea to double check the seed company's website or talk with the experts at your local greenhouse to get recommendations for the specific varieties you are growing.

Here's to a fall and winter filled with the sweet, orange and yellow sun-warmed memories of summer.



Covid Recovery Grant

continued from page 9

processing and accepting Vermont businesses and non-profit applications this April from entities that had received prior state and federal funds but could still demonstrate a net tax loss in 2020 due to COVID-19. Pursuant to legislation, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development will prioritize applications from businesses that have not yet received aid.

"This program is intended to continue to help those businesses feeling the economic impact of COVID-19 survive into

the future," said Economic Development Commissioner Joan Goldstein. "There is still money available and ample resources to help with the application process. We encourage businesses of all sizes to apply. We are committed to assisting all applicants in gaining access to these funds."

The Vermont Economic Recovery Program was appropriated \$10 million through H.315 (Act 9) and another \$20 million dollars through H.439 (Act 75) from the state's share of federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. Eligible businesses must be domiciled and

have their primary place of business in Vermont. They must demonstrate that the business experienced a net tax loss in 2020, greater than any net loss reported in 2019 via submitted federal tax returns.

The program will be open to new applications until program funds have been exhausted. Grants will be issued on a first come, first served basis. Vermont businesses can find the full program guidelines in several languages and frequently asked questions about this program at the ACCD COVID-19 Recovery Resource Center.

Vermont Farm Bureau is a grassroots not-for-profit membership organization dedicated to supporting Vermont farm families, agriculture and forestry.

We advocate for public policies that strengthen and grow our agricultural economy and conserve our natural resources.

www.vtfb.org



4-H NEWS



Above left: Earning ribbons in the Junior Division (ages 11-13) at the annual 4-H state horse judging contest, July 8, in New Haven were (left to right): Addie Ploof, Westford; Emma Cater, Colchester; Emma Sibley, Milton; Jillian Murdough, Essex Junction; Logan Claypool, Milton; Annabel Carson, South Londonderry; Kelsey Paradee, Swanton; and Karson Cook, Georgia. Missing from photo: Seanna Erickson, Florence, and Madison Markwell, Greenfield, Massachusetts. (photo: Amanda Turgeon)

Above right: Competing in the University of Vermont Extension state 4-H hippology contest for Juniors, ages 8-10, on July 9 were (left to right) Ivy Lea-Simons, Shelburne; Giselle Fenoff, Danville; Addison Erickson, Florence; and Paityn Paradee, Swanton. Missing from photo: Addison Erickson, Florence, and Elyse Thurber, Brattleboro. (photo: Amanda Turgeon)

Middle, left: The Whispering Pines 4-H Club won the 4-H Club award at the Vermont 4-H Horse Show for having the highest combined scores in various events. Members (left to right) Front row: Emma Sibley, Milton; Paityn Paradee, Swanton. Back row: Emeri Rasco, South Hero; Addie Ploof and Faith Ploof, both from Westford; Grace Parks, Essex; Kelsey Paradee, Swanton; and Haileigh Demers, Westford. (photo: Mary Fay/UVM Extension)



Bottom, left: The state 4-H hippology contest, held July 9 in New Haven, tested the equine knowledge and skills of participants, including these high-scoring Senior Division competitors. Placing in the top 10 were Jenna Dolloph, Chester; Jasmine Mooney, St. Johnsbury; Madeline Tylenda, Essex Junction; Katherine Heath, Bristol; Haileigh Demers, Westford; Faith Ploof, Westford; Grace Parks, Essex Junction; and Emma Cushman, Barre. Missing from photo: Vivienne Babbott, Hinesburg and Ella Dubin, Northfield, Massachusetts. (photo: Amanda Turgeon)

Mushroom Hunting Sustainably

By Ari Rockland-Miller, VT
Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Step into a Vermont forest on a rainy September morning, and you may find the woods exploding with an astounding diversity of wild mushrooms, from deadly to delectable. For a fleeting moment, the sheer abundance can be overwhelming, but safety and sustainability are paramount.

When we harvest wild foods, we should do so with knowledge and respect for the nuances of each patch and species. This means minimizing habitat disturbance, respecting private property, and harvesting humbly with a

long-term perspective. It is important to consider the nuances of the specific species pursued and land use context, including any regulations on the municipal, state or federal level.

Mushrooms can be less intuitive than plants. Mushrooms are spore-bearing fruiting bodies, while mycelium is the underlying organism. That means that carefully harvesting a mushroom is more akin to picking an apple than chopping down an apple tree. That said, the mushroom itself plays a critical role in spore dispersal and fostering genetic diversity. Many of the most prized gourmet edible mushrooms, like porcini and matsutake, are mycorrhizal species that

partner with tree roots in a fascinating symbiosis. These mycorrhizal species can be particularly imperiled by habitat loss, over-harvest, and climate change.

As a general ground rule, one should always leave more than half of a wild mushroom flush in the ground. In practice, I typically would pick far less than that, emphasizing mature specimens that have already dropped many spores. Each spore is a fresh start, fostering resilience of wild mushroom populations.

When my family enjoys wild mushrooms, I like to think of our role in the ecosystem as having a positive impact on forest vitality. Just as fishing aficionados can have a stake in maintaining water quality,

mushroom hunters [and eaters] can be stewards of the ecosystem, providing yet another reason to value our thriving Vermont landscape.

Ari Rockland-Miller is Act 250 Coordinator with the Vermont Agency

of Agriculture, Food & Markets. In his spare time, he is also co-founder of The Mushroom Forager (www.themushroomforager.com) and enjoys writing and leading mushroom forays with his family.



Morel mushrooms

Historic Preservation Barn Grants

By Agency of Commerce & Community Development

Established in 1992, the State-funded Barn Preservation Grant program helps individuals, municipalities, and non-profit organizations to rehabilitate the historic agricultural buildings that are a symbol of Vermont's rural landscape. This is the oldest state-funded agricultural-based grant program in the United States.

Since its inception, the program has provided over \$3 million towards the preservation of over 360 historic barns and agricultural outbuildings around the state. Preservation of these buildings not only protects Vermont's agricultural and architectural legacies, but it also generates jobs, supports independent businesses, increase civic participation, and bolsters a community's sense of place while enhancing the experience of visitors.

Grant applications opened in August with applications due in November 2021. If you would like to be added to the email list to receive notification of the next round of funding, please contact Caitlin Corkins at caitlin.corkins@vermont.gov or 802-828-3047.

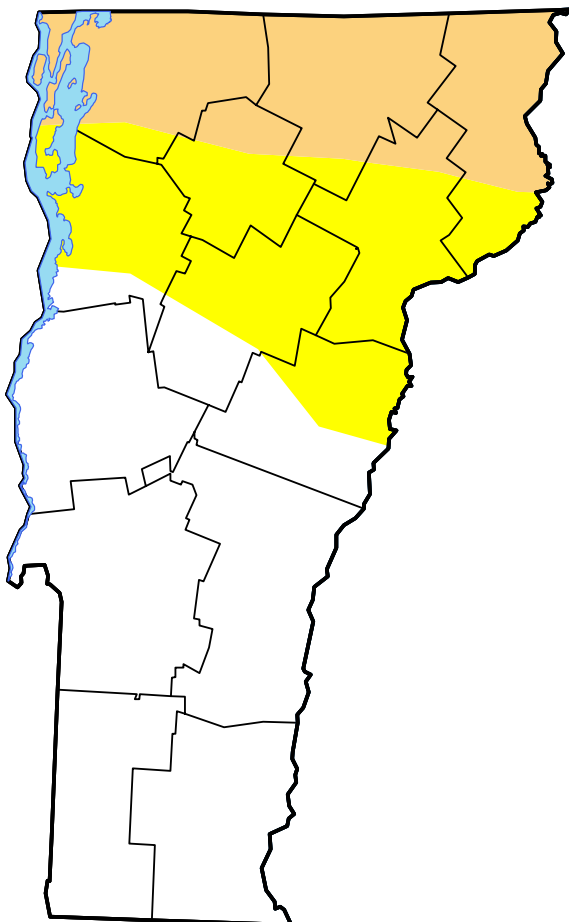


Conant Riverside Farm, Richmond

Drought Early Warning Monitor

U.S. Drought Monitor
Vermont

August 3, 2021
(Released Thursday, August 5, 2021)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu

The U.S. Drought Monitor is a map released every Thursday, showing parts of the U.S. that are in drought. The map uses five classifications: abnormally dry (D0), showing areas that may be going into or are coming out of drought, and four levels of drought: moderate (D1), severe (D2), extreme (D3) and exceptional (D4). The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For the latest information about drought status, please visit nedews.nrcrcc.cornell.edu

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